

HOUSE BILL NO. 1032

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Health and Human Services Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a mental health and substance abuse services pilot voucher
2 payment program; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES PILOT VOUCHER**

5 **PAYMENT PROGRAM.** The department of human services shall establish and operate a pilot
6 voucher payment program to provide mental health and substance abuse services for the
7 biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The department shall seek funding
8 for the pilot voucher payment program from federal, special, or other funding sources. The pilot
9 voucher payment program must consist of voucher use and provider choice as a method of
10 providing mental health and substance abuse services to beneficiaries. The program must allow
11 a voucher to be submitted to the beneficiary's provider of choice for payment of mental health
12 and substance abuse services. The department of human services shall develop service
13 agreements with mental health and substance abuse services providers to supply services in
14 exchange for the vouchers, which may be presented to the department for payment as provided
15 for in the agreement. The mental health and substance abuse services pilot voucher payment
16 program must be developed to improve access to mental health and substance abuse services,
17 including addiction treatment, counseling services, transition services, attendant care, and safe
18 beds. The department of human services shall offer the mental health and substance abuse
19 services pilot voucher payment program in three human service regions of the state as
20 determined by the department as follows:

- 21 1. A primarily urban region where a variety of mental health and substance abuse
22 services are available, but where access to services is limited;
- 23 2. A primarily rural region where a variety of mental health and substance abuse services
24 are not available; and

- 1 3. A region including an Indian reservation where the demand for mental health and
2 substance abuse services may exceed the capacity of existing mental health and
3 substance abuse service providers.

4 **SECTION 2. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES REVIEW - REPORT TO THE**
5 **LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.** The department of human services shall perform a

6 comprehensive review of the mental health and substance abuse services pilot voucher
7 payment program for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013. The
8 review must include information regarding the cost of mental health and substance abuse
9 services provided through the pilot voucher payment program compared to the cost of similar
10 mental health and substance abuse services provided in other regions during the 2011-13
11 biennium and to services in the pilot regions during the 2009-11 biennium. The review must also
12 analyze the effect of the mental health and substance abuse services pilot voucher payment
13 program on access to care and outcomes.

14 The department of human services shall report the preliminary findings of the
15 comprehensive review and any recommendations for continuation or expansion of the voucher
16 payment program to the legislative management prior to September 30, 2012.